

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05
ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
NRC-05 PA-01 /167 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0066
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1856

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, ENRG, ETRD, NG, KS
SUBJECT: NIGER FONMIN DJERMAKOYE'S TRIP TO KOREA

REF: NIAMEY 1501

1. FONMIN DJERMAKOYE HAS RETURNED LESS THAN HAPPY ABOUT HIS VISIT TO SEOUL. IN CONVERSATION APRIL 22 DJERMAKOYE TOLD ME HE WAS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, VERY IRRITATED BY A FRONT PAGE HEADLINE IN THE KOREAN HEARLD WHICH PURPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT THAT NIGER WOULD PROVIDE SOUTH KOREA WITH A LONG TERM SUPPLY OF URANIUM, WHICH APPEARED DURING HIS WEEK LONG TRIP TO SEOUL. HE HAD NOT TALKED TO THE PRESS AND ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AGREEMENT "EN PRINCIPE", HE CLAIMS TO HAVE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT NIGER WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE DETAILS OF THE PLAN AS WELL AS CONSULT WITH ITS FRIENDS (SUCH AS THE U.S. - SEE REFTEL) PRIOR TO CONSUMMATION.

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2. HIS PROTEST TO THE MINISTER (PRESUMABLY ENERGY AND RESOURCES), WHOM HE SEEMED TO FEEL WAS ACCOUNTABLE SINCE THEIR DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN PRIVATE PRODUCED AS INEFFECTIVE AND UNACCEPTABLE DISCLAIMER THAT THE PRESS WAS FREE AND NOT CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

3. DJERMAKOYE BELIEVES THAT THIS WAS A CALCULATED ONE-UPSMANSHIP MOVE ON THE PART OF THE ROK CONTRE NORTH KOREA WITH WHOM NIGER

HAS RELATIONS. DJERMAKOYE WAS ALSO MINDFUL OF HIS OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR U.S. OPINION ABOUT NIGER'S SELLING URANIUM TO ROK. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN ANY EVENT THEGON NEVER ENTERS INTO DIRECT AGREEMENTS FOR THE SALE OF URANIUM WITHOUT FIRST REFERRING ALL SUCH REQUESTS TO THE "AGENCE" (PRESUMABLY IAEA).

4. DURING AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS ARRIVAL FROM SEOUL, FONMIN TOOK GREAT PAINS TO SPECIFY THAT HE DID NOT NOT SIGN ANY AGREEMENTS IN

KOREA. THE FONMIN TOLD ME THAT EVEN THOUGH GON ATTEMPTS TO SPECIFY THAT HE DID NOT SIGN ANY AGREEMENTS IN KOREA. THE FONMIN TOLD ME THAT EVEN THOUGH GON ATTEMPTS TO KEEP URANIUM DEALS IN THE REALM OF THE COMMERCIAL THEY ARE MOST MINDFUL OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES OF ANY UNDERTAKING. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE URANIUM DEAL WITH KOREA WILL BE CONSIDERABLY DELAYED IF CONSUMMATED AT ALL. APPARENT LACK OF SERIOUS CONCERN ON THE PART OF ROK OFFICIALS ABOUT THIS PERCEIVED MISREPRESENTATION REINFORCED DJERMAKOYE'S PERCEPTION OF THIS AS A DELIBERATE ROK POLITICAL MANEUVER, A VIEW WHICH IS SHARED BY NIGER CHIEF OF STATE SEYNI KOUNTCHE.

5. THE DEGREE OF IMPACT ON NIGER/ROK RELATIONS MAY BE REFLECTED DURING THE DABUL MEETING OF THE NACB (NACC) IN MAY. NIGER WILL BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO ANY EXPLOITATION OF THIS ALLEGED NEW ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH KOREA. NIGER IS HYPERSENSITIVE TO ANY SUGGESTION OF TILT PARTICULARLY WHEN
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IT HAS RELATIONS WITH COMPETING FACTIONS. IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT NIGER HAS RELATIONS WITH BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA. JAMES

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 apr 1978
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